GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2309
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
DISTANCE EDUCATION
ANANTA NAYAK;VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote distance education;

(b) if so, the assistance being extended to various States for that purpose;

(c) whether any guidelines have been prescribed by his Ministry to promote distance education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF.RITA VERMA)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been charged with the responsibility of promotion, coordination and maintenance of standard in Open and Distance Education System in the country at tertiary level. Similarly, the National Open School (NOS) has been established to promote Distance Education System at Secondary/Senior Secondary level. IGNOU has released grants to State Open Universities and Correspondence Course Institutions amounting to Rs.49.10 crore during 9th Plan. NOS provides non- recurring amount not exceeding Rs.5 lakhs towards the purchase of modern office equipment and annual assistance not exceeding Rs. 4.00 lakhs for a maximum period of five years for meeting recurring expenditure to the State Government for setting up of an Open School..

ANNEXURE

GIST OF GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL OF IGNOU TO PROMOTE DISTANCE EDUCATIO AT TERTIARY LEVEL

1. Distance Education Council is mandated to promote, coordinate and develop the Open University and Distance Education System in the country.

2. All the State Open Universities in the country will be developed into an Open University Network sharing programmes , courses, delivery networks etc.

3. The Correspondence Course Institutions (CCIs) of the dual mode universities will be supported, to transform themselves into mainstream Distance Education Institutions.

4. The Distance Education Council is to perform the functions of promotion, coordination and development in an integrated manner and will participate in all stages of the development process in respect of Open Universities and CCIs.

GIST OF GUIDELINES FOR GRANT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR SETTING UP OF STATE OPEN SCHOOLS

1 The task or responsibility towards change of mind set of State Governments towards Open Schooling should devolve on National Open School(NOS) and the expenditure connected with conduct of seminars, meeting, is to be met from NOS funds.

2. Financial assistance may be given in the form of seed money for preparation of project report on setting up of Open School in the State based on the models to be provided by NOS but modifying it to suit the needs of local specifics.

3. No assistance to be released before finalization of the project except to the extent indicated in 2 above.

4. The state Government is to provide basic infrastructure to State Open School by providing building for State Open School, and meet the expenditure on core staff in running it.

5. The financial assistance shall be for non-recurring and recurring items of expenditure.

6. While giving financial assistance to State Open Schools, priority may be given towards (a) 148 black spot districts in Bihar, Rajasthan, UP and MP and (b) on girl's education at primary and elementary levels.